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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named

Inventor : James M. Meier et al.

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Commissioner for Patents

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

P.O. Box 1450

Group Art Unit: 2854

Examiner:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PAPER IS BEING SENT BY U.S. MAIL, FIRST CLASS, TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450, THIS

8TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 2003.

PATENT ATTORNEY

Prior to the first Official Action, it is respectfully requested that the following amendment be made.